

Harryman House
Reisterstown, Maryland
Private Access

340 MAIN STREET is one of the earliest houses of Reisterstown. Its design and absence in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax records indicate a construction date soon after 1798. Its large size indicates a degree of prosperity and its exterior form and detail are little changed.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA 1234

MAGI #0312345304

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Harryman House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

340 Main Street (340-342 Main)

6th

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Reisterstown

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

William K. Ramsburg

Telephone #: 833-0544

STREET & NUMBER

340 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Reisterstown

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

MD 21136

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #: 3786

Folio #: 260

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6A-1234

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

340 MAIN STREET is a two and one-half storey frame house, three bays in length, facing the street to the east. A long four bay wing of brick, a lower two storeys in height, extends west behind the north end and a frame one storey wing, one long bay in length, extends from the south end of the main house. The front or easterly slope of the roof of the south wing extends beyond the front wall with a lower pitch, apparently cantilevered but undoubtedly supported by columns originally. This house was not accessible for inspection internally, but it appears to date from very early in the nineteenth century. The brick rear wing appears to date from ca. 1840-1860. The south wing may be contemporary with the main house, it may predate it, or it may post-date it; an interior inspection of the separating wall is required to determine this.

The principal entrance is in the northerly bay of the main section but joints in the plain weatherboards indicate the window of the middle bay to have been a door, undoubtedly the original, judging by the presence of the two-flue brick chimney which rises internally at the north gable. The windows of the middle bay are slightly south of center. Windows have 6/6 sash, louvred blinds and wide architrave trim, perhaps original. Triple casements are in the south wing, twentieth century replacements. The rake cornices and a wide shed-roofed dormer in the roof of the main section with three 2/2 windows are also twentieth century additions

The brick wing has a corbeled brick cornice and very small second storey windows; a tall chimney rises from the ridge near the middle of this wing.

A one storey porch extends across the east front and north end.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

| PERIOD | | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | local history | |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Samuel Harryman

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building is one of the earliest houses of Reisterstown. Its design and apparent absence in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax Record indicates a construction date soon after 1798. Its large size indicates a degree of prosperity and its exterior form and detail are little changed.

The land on which this house was built was owned by Samuel Harryman in 1814. He had gradually bought up some lots (3) which were part of John Reister's estate, and which Reister's executor, Henry Weist had sold between 1805-1811. (Marks op cit., p. 182).

Samuel Harryman, was by all evidence one of Reisterstown's early outstanding citizens. He is listed in 1821, by an Act of the General Assembly of Md., on a Corporate Board of the "High German Lutheran Church in Risters Town". (Marks op cit., p. 10). On this board he was influential in determining the eventual location of the church and cemetery for the town. He kept a saddlery and harness shop and sold groceries and drugs on his above mentioned property. (Md. Monthly Magazine op cit., P. 11).

He died in 1852 and his will divided the property to his wife, Elizabeth, and his two unmarried children, Amos and Lucretia. Elizabeth died in 1865 and by the terms of her will, the said residue became the joint property of the brother and sister mentioned above.

They apparently lived together in the house until ca. 1869 in peace and tranquility--Amos continued the store on the premises. He was appointed postmaster from 1853-1857 and again, in 1868-1869, and, as was the custom, the post office was run out of his abode. Amos had married in 1869 and he and his family left to take up residence on other property outside town which had been devised to the sister and brother. It was a farm with considerable acreage. The store in Reisterstown was rented out and Lucretia remained in the house.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 Significance Continued

In 1875-6 Amos began to threaten his sister. He wanted to move back to the house in town and wanted to dispossess her as she was considerably in debt to him. Since he threatened her with physical violence, Lucretia felt compelled to seek the protection of the law. A court battle ensued 1876-1877. Because the jointly held properties could not be sold without the consent of both owners, the property was placed in the hands of court appointed receivers who proceeded to sell the lot at auction. Amos bought the parcel containing the house in 1877 for \$1800.00. (JB 101/565, also Judicial Liber WMI 78/33).

In order to buy the property, Amos apparently had to borrow money from Samuel W. Starr, who then held the mortgage. Amos was soon unable to meet the payments and Starr foreclosed in 1879. The property went up for auction once again. (It is possible that Amos had died at this time and his widow could not meet payment) The property was described thusly in the Maryland Journal, May, 1879:

"All that lot...fronting about 100' more or less on Reisterstown Turnpike... and of which Samuel Harryman, late of Baltimore County, died, seized and now occupied by Mrs. Ann H. Harryman. This property is improved by a two storey frame dwelling house with a large brick back building, a store house, in which said Amos Harryman formerly kept store and where more recently R.S. Vinton Gore kept store; and is also improved by a brick smoke house 12x14 feet, tool house, wood house, saddler shop, powder magazine, 2 corn houses, dairy, stables, etc. Also by grape vines and fruit trees of various kinds in good bearing order. Neighborhood pleasant and healthy; churches and schools convenient."

Starr purchased the house at auction for \$2000.00. He was the guardian for two children, Elizabeth and Robert Starr, minors. By 1884 he had deeded the property over to them (WMI 143/171).

The two Starr children jointly held the property until 1886 and then sold it to Henry E. Waggoner who maintained a successful harness shop on this location for many years. (JWS 151/483)

In 1914, the heirs of Waggoner (who had died intestate) sold the property to Henry E. Waggoner, Jr. and wife Nellie. From this point on, the property did not stay long in anyone's hands:

- 1915 Waggoners to Milton C. Pains (WPC 453/22)
- 1916 Pains to Henry W. Osborn (WPC 462/578)
- 1921 Osborn to Edward McCoy (WPC 544/501)
- 1936 McCoy, widow to W. T. Hamack (CWB 982/549)
- 1957 Hamack to William K. Lee (GLB 3135/56)

Continuation Sheet Harryman House
340 Main Street
Reisterstown, Maryland
Baltimore County

BA-1234

8 Significance Continued

For most of the time, however, a store of some kind was run in connection with the house.

In 1960, the Lees sold the property to the present owner, William K. Ramsburg and wife, Renata. (WJR 3786/260)

BA-1234

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Sources: "Stores" Maryland Monthly Mag. Sept. 1906 (Reisterstown, 1906-7)
Lillian Bayley Marks, Reister's Desire (Baltimore, 1975)
Frank Zouck, "The Flight of the Reisterstown Post Office" unidentified
article in possession of L. B. Goodwin

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .91 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY James T. Wollon A.I.A.

NAME / TITLE Cornelia M Ives , Project Coordinator

9/78

ORGANIZATION Historic Reisterstown, Inc

DATE

STREET & NUMBER 430 Main Street

TELEPHONE 833-3078 (Ms Ives)

CITY OR TOWN Reisterstown, Md

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



BA 1234

Harryman House

340² Main St -

Reist. md.

Carol Pollack

4/77

~~West~~ East